

central Minnesota, which is also in my district.

Yellow Ribbon is a truly remarkable program that eases the transition of our soldiers to civilian life by providing job training, counseling, and all kinds of support for servicemembers, veterans, and military families.

So I want to say a special thanks to Morrison and Crow Wing Counties in Minnesota—and to the communities of Little Falls, Motley, Royalton, Swanville, Sobieski, Harding, Buckman, Upsala, Randall, Pierz, Bowlus, Elmdale, and Lastrup, all in my district—for supporting our returning servicemen and -women as Yellow Ribbon communities.

We thank and honor all our military for their service to our great Nation.

STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATES

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, unless Congress acts, in less than 2 weeks, the interest rates on federally subsidized Stafford loans will double from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent for more than 7 million students.

In my home State of Rhode Island, which is home to more than 40,000 borrowers of federally subsidized Stafford loans, this means that higher education will become less attainable for more and more young people who depend on financial aid. As we work to get our economy back on track, we should be making it easier, not more difficult, for young people to access higher education.

Once again, the House Republican leadership is failing to act in the best interest of the American people. Rather than working towards a common-sense solution on student loan interest rates, we are spending this week voting on a \$20 billion cut to children's nutrition programs and a bill that would severely restrict reproductive health care for women.

This has gone on long enough. In the interests of our constituents, Republicans and Democrats should set aside our differences and get back to solving the problems that our country faces. The Republican leaders in the House should bring bills to the floor for a vote that focus on protecting students from interest rate increases and getting Americans back to work.

SUGAR REFORM IS NEEDED

(Mr. DESJARLAIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, the current United States sugar program is a clear example of government intrusion into a market. Nowhere is there a larger gap between the U.S. Government's free-trade rhetoric and its protectionist practices than in our sugar policy.

The most prominent argument I hear from the other side is this program is of no cost to the taxpayers. That simply isn't true. It was reported yesterday the USDA intends to purchase sugar off the domestic market, costing taxpayers nearly \$38 million. The government then plans to sell this sugar at a loss to ethanol companies. And who is ultimately footing the bill for this not-so-sweet deal? The taxpayers.

But the most egregious point is that other countries actively try to lure U.S. companies to relocate. An official Canadian Government brochure states:

Canadian sugar users enjoy a significant advantage—the average price of refined sugar is usually 30 to 40 percent lower in Canada than the U.S.

When a government program becomes a recruitment technique to lure away our manufacturers and move U.S. jobs abroad, I believe reform is not only necessary but essential.

ONGOING VIOLENCE IN SYRIA

(Mr. ISRAEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, since March of 2011 in Syria, 90,000 people have been killed, millions have been displaced internally, hundreds of thousands have fled, and between 100 and 150 people have been murdered by Bashar al-Assad's chemical weapons.

We can debate what we should do and how far we should go, but there is one thing that we can all agree on, and that is legislation that my colleague from Oklahoma, Congressman TOM COLE, and I have introduced on a bipartisan basis that would bring Bashar al-Assad to the International Criminal Court where he will be prosecuted for war crimes and crimes against humanity. This is an example of bipartisan cooperation and accord on a challenging foreign policy crisis.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Cole-Israel resolution and pass it immediately.

□ 1230

PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1947, FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2013

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 271 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 271

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes. No further general debate shall be in order.

SEC. 2. (a) In lieu of the amendments recommended by the Committees on Agriculture and the Judiciary now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-14, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived.

(b) No amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution and amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution.

(c) Each amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by its proponent at any time before action thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(d) All points of order against amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules or against amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Agriculture or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The original proponent of an amendment included in such amendments en bloc may insert a statement in the Congressional Record immediately before the disposition of the amendments en bloc.

SEC. 4. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 426 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I make a point of order against consideration of the rule, House Resolution 271.

Section 426 of the Budget Act specifically states that the Rules Committee may not waive the point of order prescribed by section 425 of that same Act. House Resolution 271 states: